

**DELEGATED**

**AGENDA No.**

**REPORT TO PLANNING  
COMMITTEE**

**DATE 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2012**

**REPORT OF HEAD OF  
PLANNING**

## **PLANNING PERFORMANCE**

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update members on the current performance of the planning department for the second quarter of 2012/2013.

### **Recommendation**

That planning committee note this quarterly report.

### **Background**

1. DCLG have now published a draft version of the Single Data List (SDL), which is intended to replace the previous performance management systems – National Indicators, etc. The SDL is a basic catalogue of all the data collections (existing and proposed) that central government departments require from local authorities. There are 152 separate data collection topics within this Single Data List, with 64 of these relating directly to Development and Neighbourhood Services. The large majority of these data collections are already undertaken within services, with only a small number of new data collections proposed.
2. Within the SDL, the data collections that will be required from Planning remain much the same as we report already, and revolve around the performance of managing planning applications, enforcement, green belt land data, previously developed land data and the Annual Monitoring Report for the LDF. There will be 5 data collections and then 41 data topics within the 5 broad collection areas.
3. It is therefore proposed to continue reporting performance to committee in 2012/13 along the lines that we have done already, as CLG have indicated that they wish this particular reporting criteria to remain. The performance level for this year therefore remains at 75% for majors, 80% for minors and 88% for other applications.
4. The reporting timeframe runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April-31<sup>st</sup> March each year. This report presents the performance of the second quarter in that period, 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

**Current performance position**

5. Performance results achieved for the second quarter are 82.35% for major applications, 83.02% for minor and 95.16% for others, achieving above performance in all categories.

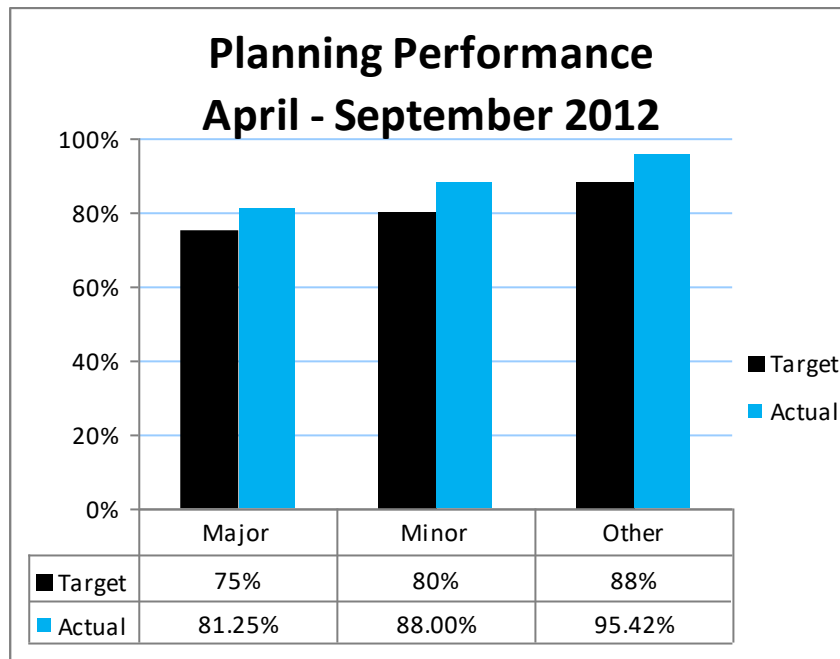
Table 1-Second quarter results

| Category | Determined | Q2     |        | Percent | Target |
|----------|------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
|          |            | Within | Target |         |        |
| Major    | 17         | 14     |        | 82.35%  | 75%    |
| Minor    | 53         | 44     |        | 83.02%  | 80%    |
| Other    | 186        | 177    |        | 95.16%  | 88%    |

Table 2-Cumulative performance 2012/13

| Category | Cumulative April – Sept 2012/13 |        |        |         |
|----------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|
|          | Determined                      | Within | Target | Percent |
| Major    | 32                              | 26     |        | 81.25%  |
| Minor    | 125                             | 110    |        | 88.00%  |
| Other    | 393                             | 375    |        | 95.42%  |

Chart 1-Cumulative performance 2012/13



6. 14 out of 17 major applications were determined within the 13 week target. One of the applications which went over the target (12/0165/FUL) related to the proposed development at Red House School in Norton for 68 residential dwellings and the delay since approval by committee related to the signing of

the section 106 agreement. The second application was for residential development at Kingfisher Way in Bowesfield (11/2450/OUT) and related to houses in the flood plain, whilst the final application (11/1441/VARY) resulted in a large number of amended plans being submitted to over come the many issues.

### **Planning Guarantee Monitoring Report 2011/12**

7. Of interest to Members will be the Planning Guarantee Monitoring Report for the year 2011/12 published in September 2012 by DCLG. The Guarantee gives a clear time limit within which all planning applications should be decided, even where an appeal has been made. It does not replace the existing statutory time limits within which planning authorities should decide applications (13 weeks for major applications, 8 weeks for others).
8. As it applies to applications that may be considered by the local planning authority (LPA) and the Planning Inspectorate (where an appeal is made), in principle no application should spend more than 26 weeks with either the planning authority or the Inspectorate if the Guarantee is to be met. This allows time for an appeal to be determined if the initial application is refused by the planning authority.
9. The report provides information on performance by individual LPA's and the Planning Inspectorate against this 26 week time limit, for the year following the initial announcement of the Planning Guarantee.

Chart 2-Total nos of planning decisions across the Tees Valley

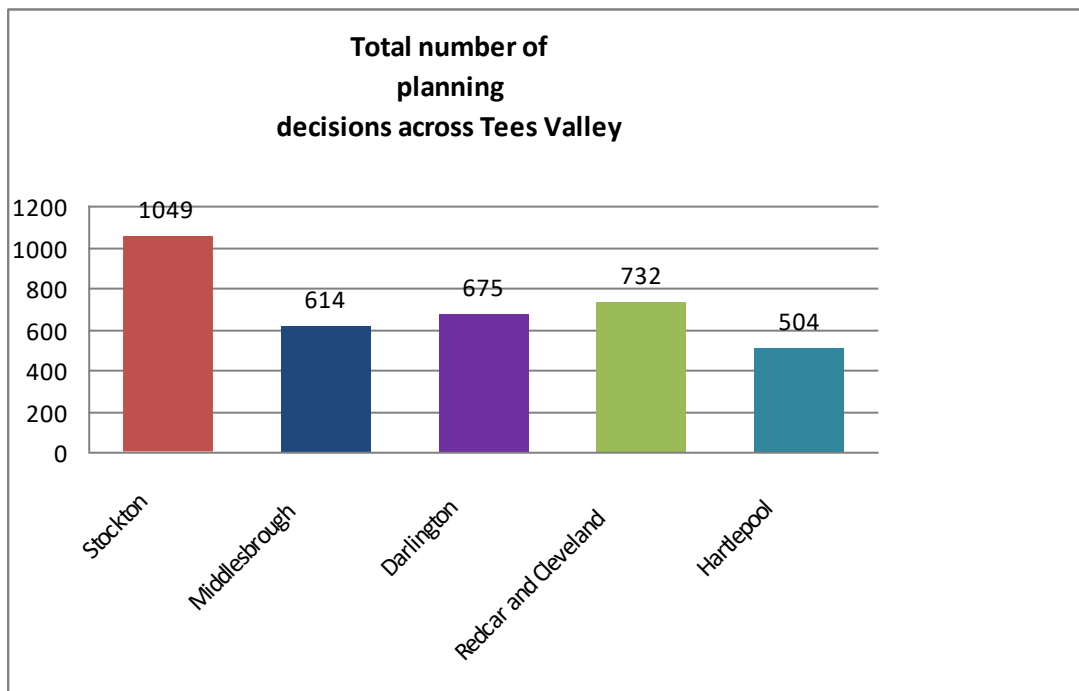


Chart 3-LA Planning Guarantee Statistics for the Tees Valley 2011/12

| Local Authority      | Total number of planning decisions | No. of all planning decisions determined within 26 weeks | % of all planning decisions determined within 26 weeks | No. of major planning decisions determined within 26 weeks | % of major planning decisions determined within 26 weeks |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Stockton on Tees     | 1049                               | 1040                                                     | 99%                                                    | 41                                                         | 93%                                                      |
| Middlesbrough        | 614                                | 612                                                      | 100%                                                   | 17                                                         | 94%                                                      |
| Darlington           | 675                                | 658                                                      | 97%                                                    | 6                                                          | 50%                                                      |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 732                                | 716                                                      | 98%                                                    | 25                                                         | 83%                                                      |
| Hartlepool           | 504                                | 486                                                      | 96%                                                    | 5                                                          | 50%                                                      |

Chart 4- LA Planning Guarantee Statistics for other NE authorities 2011/12

|                | Total number of planning decisions | No. of all planning decisions determined within 26 weeks | % of all planning decisions determined within 26 weeks | No. of major planning decisions determined within 26 weeks | % of major planning decisions determined within 26 weeks |
|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Durham         | 3033                               | 2954                                                     | 97%                                                    | 99                                                         | 84%                                                      |
| Northumberland | 2751                               | 2587                                                     | 94%                                                    | 95                                                         | 77%                                                      |
| Gateshead      | 1010                               | 986                                                      | 98%                                                    | 34                                                         | 83%                                                      |
| Newcastle      | 1384                               | 1372                                                     | 99%                                                    | 61                                                         | 97%                                                      |
| Sunderland     | 996                                | 982                                                      | 99%                                                    | 40                                                         | 85%                                                      |
| North Tyneside | 951                                | 936                                                      | 98%                                                    | 27                                                         | 82%                                                      |
| South Tyneside | 724                                | 715                                                      | 99%                                                    | 14                                                         | 93%                                                      |

### **Recommendation**

10. That planning committee note this performance report and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Planning Staff and colleagues within other service areas to determine applications within the target periods and improve performance and the reputation of the Council.

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**Financial Implications; decrease in income has budgetary implications for service delivery; changes to the Planning system will place additional budgetary pressures on the service in the future; unknown variable if the authority fails to meet Planning Guarantee targets**

**Environmental Implications; None directly.**

**Community Safety Implications; None directly.**